

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and remarks contained herein in response to the Office Action mailed January 25, 2008. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 19 are pending. In particular, Applicants add claim 20 and amend claims 1, 6, and 11. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Claim 1 is Allowable Over *Knauerhase* in view of *Bernstein, Donovan, and Appelman*

The Office Action indicates that claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication Number 2003/0023691 A1 ("*Knauerhase*") in view of U.S. Publication Number 2004/0128356 ("*Bernstein*") and U.S. Publication Number 2004/0193722 ("*Donovan*"). Additionally, although not in the formal rejection, the Office Action suggests in "Response to Arguments" that U.S. Patent No. 6,912,564 ("*Appelman*") is also used to reject this claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reason that *Knauerhase* in view of *Bernstein*, in view of *Donovan*, further in view of *Appelman* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. More specifically, claim 1 recites:

A method processed by a computing device at a user location, comprising:
receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an instant messaging (IM) address of a contact of a user;
receiving, by the computing device at the user location, an email address of the contact of the user;
receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a reference identifier (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the contact of the user;
correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the IM address to the reference identifier;

correlating, by the computing device at the user location, the email address to the reference identifier (ID); and

providing, by the computing device at the user location, an email receive window configured to display a received email, the email receive window configured to provide IM presence information associated with the IM address of the contact of the user, the ***email receive window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for automatically launching an IM session with the contact from the email receive window, directly from the email receive window, the email receive window including a launch IM option for launching the IM session.***

(emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited art for at least the reason that *Knauerhase, Bernstein, Donovan, and Appelman* (alone and in combination) fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a “method processed by a computing device at a user location, comprising... providing, by the computing device at the user location, an email receive window configured to display a received email, the email receive window configured to provide IM presence information associated with the IM address of the contact of the user, the ***email receive window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for automatically launching an IM session with the contact from the email receive window, directly from the email receive window, the email receive window including a launch IM option for launching the IM session***” as recited in claim 1, as amended. More specifically, *Knauerhase* discloses “enabl[ing] a sender to send a message to a recipient’s identity rather than, e.g., one or more device addresses associated with the recipient” (page 1, paragraph [0014]). However, *Knauerhase* fails to disclose anything related to automatically launching an IM session directly from an email receive window, as recited in claim 1, as amended.

Additionally, *Bernstein* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase*. More specifically, *Bernstein* discloses “supporting the initiation of an Instant Messaging (IM) session between two or more parties through the use of email programs and standard web-browsers” (page 1, paragraph [0013]). However, nowhere does *Bernstein* disclose anything related to

automatically launching an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 1, as amended.

Additionally, *Donovan* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase* and *Bernstein*. More specifically, *Donovan* discloses “IM session manager software (an IM manager) which is used to establish and monitor each IM session including receiving and responding to commands from the user related to the instant messaging function and displaying information to the user related to the IM function” (page 1, paragraph [0009]). However, *Donovan* fails to even suggest launching an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 1, as amended.

Further, *Appelman* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase*, *Bernstein*, and *Donovan*. More specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 10, *Appelman* appears to disclose that a user can select an address (e.g., cbarker@asia.com) that will launch an option box that will provide options to send an instant message, add the contact to a buddy list or send an e-mail. *Appelman*, however, fails to disclose an option to automatically launch an instant messaging (IM) session directly from a receive window. As this is different than an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 1, as amended. For at least these reasons, claim 1, as amended, is allowable.

B. Claim 6 is Allowable Over *Knauerhase* in view of *Bernstein*, *Donovan*, and *Appelman*

The Office Action indicates that claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication Number 2003/0023691 A1 (“*Knauerhase*”) in view of U.S. Publication Number 2004/0128356 (“*Bernstein*”) and U.S. Publication Number 2004/0193722 (“*Donovan*”). Additionally, although not in the formal rejection, the Office Action suggests in “Response to Arguments” that U.S. Patent No. 6,912,564 (“*Appelman*”) is also used to reject this claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reason that

Knauerhase in view of *Bernstein*, in view of *Donovan*, further in view of *Appelman* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of claim 6. More specifically, claim 1 recites:

A method processed by a computing device at a user location, comprising:

receiving, by the computing device at the user location, user input, the user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact of the user, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol;

receiving, by the computing device at the user location, a reference identifier (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact;

correlating, by the computing device at the user location, each of the multiple IM addresses to the reference identifier (ID); and

providing, by the computing device at the user location, an email receive window configured to display a received email, the email receive window configured to provide IM presence information associated with the IM address of the contact of the user, the email receive window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for ***automatically launching an IM session with the individual contact from the email window, directly from the email receive window, the email receive window including a launch IM option for launching the IM session.***

(emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6, as amended, is allowable over the cited art for at least the reason that *Knauerhase*, *Bernstein*, *Donovan*, and *Appelman* (alone and in combination) fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a “method processed by a computing device at a user location, comprising... providing, by the computing device at the user location, an email receive window configured to display a received email, the email receive window configured to provide IM presence information associated with the IM address of the contact of the user, the email receive window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for ***automatically launching an IM session with the individual contact from the email window, directly from the email receive window, the email receive window including a launch IM option for launching the IM session***” as recited in claim 6, as amended. More specifically, *Knauerhase* discloses “enabl[ing] a sender to send a message to a recipient’s identity rather than, e.g., one

or more device addresses associated with the recipient" (page 1, paragraph [0014]). However, *Knauerhase* fails to disclose anything related to automatically launching an IM session directly from an email receive window, as recited in claim 6, as amended.

Additionally, *Bernstein* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase*. More specifically, *Bernstein* discloses "supporting the initiation of an Instant Messaging (IM) session between two or more parties through the use of email programs and standard web-browsers" (page 1, paragraph [0013]). However, nowhere does *Bernstein* disclose anything related to automatically launching an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 6, as amended.

Additionally, *Donovan* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase* and *Bernstein*. More specifically, *Donovan* discloses "IM session manager software (an IM manager) which is used to establish and monitor each IM session including receiving and responding to commands from the user related to the instant messaging function and displaying information to the user related to the IM function" (page 1, paragraph [0009]). However, *Donovan* fails to even suggest launching an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 6, as amended.

Further, *Appelman* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase*, *Bernstein*, and *Donovan*. More specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 10, *Appelman* appears to disclose that a user can select an address (e.g., *cbarker@asia.com*) that will launch an option box that will provide options to send an instant message, add the contact to a buddy list or send an e-mail. *Appelman*, however, fails to disclose an option to automatically launch an instant messaging (IM) session directly from a receive window. As this is different than an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 6, as amended. For at least these reasons, claim 6, as amended, is allowable.

C. **Claim 11 is Allowable Over *Knauerhase* in view of *Bernstein*, *Donovan*, and *Appelman***

The Office Action indicates that claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication Number 2003/0023691 A1 ("*Knauerhase*") in view of U.S. Publication Number 2004/0128356 ("*Bernstein*") and U.S. Publication Number 2004/0193722 ("*Donovan*"). Additionally, although not in the formal rejection, the Office Action suggests in "Response to Arguments" that U.S. Patent No. 6,912,564 ("*Appelman*") is also used to reject this claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reason that *Knauerhase* in view of *Bernstein*, in view of *Donovan*, further in view of *Appelman* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of claim 11. More specifically, claim 11 recites:

A system processed by a computing device at a user location comprising:

first receive logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, the first receive logic configured to receive first user input, the first user input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact of the user, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol;

second receive logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, the second receive logic configured to receive second user input, the second user input comprising a reference identifier (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact;

correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, the correlate logic configured to correlate each of the multiple IM addresses to the reference identifier (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact; and

email window logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, to provide an email receive window configured to display a received email, the email receive window configured to provide IM presence information associated with the IM address of the contact of the user, the email receive window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for ***automatically launching an IM session with the individual contact from the email window, directly from the email receive window***, the email receive window including a launch IM option for launching the IM session.

(emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11, as amended, is allowable over the cited art for at least the reason that *Knauerhase*, *Bernstein*, *Donovan*, and *Appelman* (alone and in combination) fail to disclose, teach, or suggest a “system processed by a computing device at a user location comprising... email window logic, processed by the computing device at the user location, to provide an email receive window configured to display a received email, the email receive window configured to provide IM presence information associated with the IM address of the contact of the user, the email receive window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for **automatically launching an IM session with the individual contact from the email window, directly from the email receive window**, the email receive window including a launch IM option for launching the IM session” as recited in claim 11, as amended. More specifically, *Knauerhase* discloses “enabl[ing] a sender to send a message to a recipient’s identity rather than, e.g., one or more device addresses associated with the recipient” (page 1, paragraph [0014]). However, *Knauerhase* fails to disclose anything related to automatically launching an IM session directly from an email receive window, as recited in claim 11, as amended.

Additionally, *Bernstein* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase*. More specifically, *Bernstein* discloses “supporting the initiation of an Instant Messaging (IM) session between two or more parties through the use of email programs and standard web-browsers” (page 1, paragraph [0013]). However, nowhere does *Bernstein* disclose anything related to automatically launching an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 11, as amended.

Additionally, *Donovan* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase* and *Bernstein*. More specifically, *Donovan* discloses “IM session manager software (an IM manager) which is used to establish and monitor each IM session including receiving and responding to commands from the user related to the instant messaging function and displaying information to the user related to the IM function” (page 1, paragraph [0009]). However, *Donovan* fails to even

suggest launching an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 11, as amended.

Further, *Appelman* fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Knauerhase*, *Bernstein*, and *Donovan*. More specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 10, *Appelman* appears to disclose that a user can select an address (e.g., *cbarker@asia.com*) that will launch an option box that will provide options to send an instant message, add the contact to a buddy list or send an e-mail. *Appelman*, however, fails to disclose an option to automatically launch an instant messaging (IM) session directly from a receive window. As this is different than an IM session directly from an email window, as recited in claim 11, as amended. For at least these reasons, claim 11, as amended, is allowable.

D. Claims 2 – 5, 7 – 10, and 12 – 19 are Allowable Over *Knauerhase* in view of *Bernstein*, *Donovan*, and *Appelman*

The Office Action indicates that claim 2 – 5, 7 – 10, and 12 – 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication Number 2003/0023691 A1 ("*Knauerhase*") in view of U.S. Publication Number 2004/0128356 ("*Bernstein*") and U.S. Publication Number 2004/0193722 ("*Donovan*"). Additionally, although not in the formal rejection, the Office Action suggests in "Response to Arguments" that U.S. Patent No. 6,912,564 ("*Appelman*") is also used to reject this claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reason that *Knauerhase* in view of *Bernstein*, in view of *Donovan*, further in view of *Appelman* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the elements of claims 2 – 5, 7 – 10, and 12 – 19. More specifically, dependent claims 2 – 5 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from and include the elements of allowable independent claim 1. Dependent claims 7 – 10 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they depend from and include the elements of allowable independent claim 6. Further, dependent claims 12 – 19 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that they

depend from and include the elements of allowable independent claim 11. *In re Fine, Minnesota Mining and Mfg.Co. v. Chemque, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

II. New Claim 20 is Allowable

In addition, Applicants add claim 20. New claim 20 is allowable for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 11. *In re Fine, Minnesota Mining and Mfg.Co. v. Chemque, Inc.*, 303 F.3d 1294, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or addressed, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested.

Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. Furthermore, any and all findings of well-known art and Official Notice, or statements interpreted similarly, should not be considered well-known for the particular and specific reasons that the claimed combinations are too complex to support such conclusions and because the Office Action does not include specific findings predicated on sound technical and scientific reasoning to support such conclusions.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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